

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ, friends, and family,

There have been many sleepless nights since being charged with writing this letter. It is a great responsibility, but honorable burden. I have many questions to ask and something I ask you to remember. Who is our example if not Christ? Where is Christ in us if we are without love, compassion, and mercy? As you go through life, remember what Paul wrote (Rom 3:23) "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." That doesn't leave out any man or woman that has reached the age of accountability or attained salvation.

I come before you a flawed man. Someone that has done many regrettable things. Yet, the Lord has been with me all the time. For this reason, I am humbled. As you read your Bible, I pray you read for understanding and not justification. Justifying our nature by the scriptures is easily done. God began to teach us from the beginning of time. If you aren't willing to listen a little closer, then how can you grow closer to him? (Gen 1:3-5) "And God said, Let there be light. And God saw the light was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called night." Regardless of what we watch, read, or listen to, one thing stands out: light and darkness have always been contrary to the other. (Gen 6:6) "And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieves him at his heart." (John 8:12) "Then spake Jesus unto them saying, I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." (John 3:19) "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

As we journey through life, we have but one job to do. Keep the commandments that our Lord and Savior set before us. (Matt 22:37-40) "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, all thy soul and all thy mind." This is the first and great commandment. The second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. To adhere to these commandments is a hard thing. We are but flesh and by nature are flawed.

I write this letter to warn each and every child of the King to be still in your actions, as well as your reactions. When we react one against another, we tend to adhere to our own nature. It is in our nature to believe we are right and everyone else is wrong. Where is Christ in that? How can we as Christians love our neighbor as ourselves without understanding first? I hope that you would remember to be as the "Good Samaritan". Be willing and eager to pick each other up when any have stumbled or fallen. Otherwise, we are in no better shape than the thieves that put them there and left them for dead.

In our flesh, we ALL continuously make mistakes. We stumble, fall, and do many things we ought not do. For this reason, we must hold tight to the things our Lord and Savior has taught us. The one thing that only He could. He taught us by showing us what Love truly is. How are we to Love without being compassionate and merciful? We cannot show love, compassion, or mercy without understanding

first. We are none better than another or any less flawed. By our nature, we love darkness more than light. We continually try to find answers within ourselves; yet we have none. Brothers and Sister remember that Christ commanded us (John 13:34) "A new commandment I give unto you, That you love one another; as I have loved you." Don't be quick to judge and throw down. There is more to the commandment given (Exodus 20:13) "Thou shall not kill; than murder." We as Christians can kill someone's desire to be better. I believe that is what Paul was writing about in Corinthians chapter 8.

Brothers and Sisters, I plead with you to remember these things. Please show Love over judgment. We have all come from somewhere. We have all seen our brothers and sisters give way to someone who became cynical. Let go of your nature and the things of this world, it is all temporal. Make way for the spirit to move. Our Lord is forever. Paul writes (Gal 2:20) "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." God loved us all enough to give His son. Let us all remember these things and bind together with that Love. With that Love, show the whole world the work God has done in us. As well as the things He can do for those still in the world of sin. The commandments are already written in our hearts, if we would only submit. All of us, Christians and non-believers alike, by nature forget to be still and listen. Do not lean on your own understanding, but lean on He, who understands all things. I hope and pray that this letter causes each individual that reads it to understand what Christ is for me; a friend and Savior. I love you all the best I can, but Christ loves you more.

Your brother in Christ and a man flawed in the flesh,

Brother Joshua Newsom